

# Byron L. Dorgan

U.S. Senate " 713 Hart Building " Washington D.C. 20510

E-mail: [senator@dorgan.senate.gov](mailto:senator@dorgan.senate.gov) " Internet Web Page: [www.senate.gov/~dorgan](http://www.senate.gov/~dorgan)

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CONTACT: Barry E. Piatt  
or Dana McCallum  
PHONE: 202-224-2551

Cost savings to North Dakota seniors would be substantial:

## **DORGAN AMENDMENT PASSES SENATE – WOULD GIVE U.S. CONSUMERS ACCESS TO LOWER DRUG PRICES**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — Legislation co-authored by U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan that would help Americans save millions of dollars on high priced prescription medicines was approved Wednesday by the U.S. Senate. Dorgan offered the amendment with Senator James Jeffords (R-VT). It would allow U.S. pharmacists and other licensed prescription drug wholesalers to import prescription drugs from Canada, Mexico and other countries where pharmaceutical companies often sell them at a fraction of the cost they charge U.S. consumers.

Bus loads of North Dakotans have already gone to Canada to buy limited amounts of medicines for personal use and are well aware of the price savings available there. Dorgan's amendment would help make those lower prices available at North Dakota pharmacies and local drug stores across the United States as well.

"I think the global economy ought to work for consumers, too," Dorgan said. "Why should they have to go to Canada or another country to buy medicines at an affordable price when those medicines are manufactured right here in the United States? I think a little price competition might help convince the pharmaceutical companies to re-price their medicines to more appropriate levels here in the United States, but if it doesn't at least consumers would have access to the lower prices charged for those very same medicines in other countries."

The legislation includes provisions that ensure the integrity, purity, and safety of medicines imported into the United States. It would allow the importation of only drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), manufactured in FDA approved facilities, and distributed under FDA approved guidelines.

The amendment was attached to the Agricultural Appropriations bill now being considered by the full Senate, where action is expected to be completed on Thursday.

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